

**MICV2005-00020**

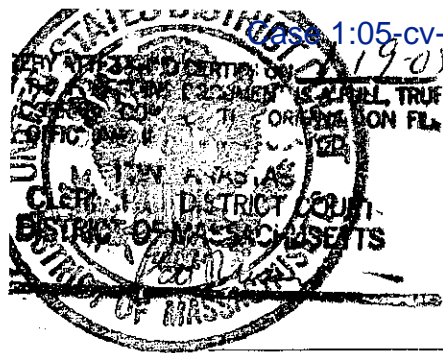
FILED  
IN CLERKS OFFICE  
2005 JAN 28 P 4:00  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASS.

**Savings Employees Retirement Association**

**v.**

**Berkshire Bank**

**Removed to United States District Court**



3  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

FILED  
IN CLERKS OFFICE  
2005 JAN 19 P 4:03

U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASS.

SAVINGS BANK EMPLOYEES  
RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION,

Plaintiff,

v.

BRIDGEWATER BANK,

Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION  
NO. 05-0020

On Removal from the Superior Court  
Department of the Trial Court of Middlesex  
County, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

05 • 10 123 EFH

NOTICE OF REMOVAL

The defendants hereby remove the above captioned action to the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts. This action was commenced in the Superior Court for the Trial Court of Massachusetts, Middlesex County, on January 5, 2005; the initial pleading was first served on the defendants less than 30 (thirty) days ago, on January 7, 2005. This case is removable under 28 U.S.C. §1331 and 29 U.S.C. §1132(e)(1) because the plaintiff, Savings Bank Employees Retirement Association ("SBERA"), asserts claims that are governed by and subject to the laws of ERISA, and any alternative claims are completely preempted by ERISA.<sup>1</sup>

SBERA's Complaint alleges that the defendants owe it post-termination fees assessed pursuant to by-laws and provisions of SBERA's ERISA benefit plans. The

<sup>1</sup> Attached as Exhibit A is the margin order by the Honorable William Young where he held that federal jurisdiction existed over similar claims brought by the same plaintiff against another group of Savings Bank defendants who also objected to payment of SBERA's post-termination fees.

complaint asserts two counts, each of which is governed and/or preempted by ERISA. Count I seeks to collect amounts allegedly due SBERA as the result of the defendants withdrawal of assets from SBERA's plans. See Complaint ¶9. Count II alleges that the defendants committed unfair business practices under Mass. Gen. Law. c. 93A by failing to pay assessment fees upon withdrawal from SBERA's plans. See Complaint ¶12. This Court has jurisdiction over SBERA's claims.

**A. SBERA's Complaint Asserts A Claim Under ERISA.**

SBERA's claims are governed by and subject to ERISA. The By-Laws to SBERA's plans state:

The provisions of the [Participating Employer's] Plan and the [SBERA] by-laws shall be construed according to the Employees Retirement Income Security [sic] act of 1974 and the regulations issued by the Internal Revenue Service and the Department of Labor of the United States and the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Any conflict between ERISA and/or the regulations issued thereunder and the Laws of Massachusetts shall be resolved by compliance with ERISA and the regulations thereunder.

See § 5.1, of the SBERA By-Laws, which are attached as Exhibit B. SBERA's By-Laws also define the legal obligations of SBERA's trustees and provide individuals covered under the plan with specific legal rights. See SBERA By-Laws, §§ 2.3 (Authority and Liability of Trustees), 2.10 (Claims Procedure), and 4.3 (Fiduciary Obligations). Accordingly, SBERA's By-Laws are part of SBERA's plan documents. Doe v. Travelers Ins. Co., 167 F.3d 53, 59 (1st Cir. 1999) (a formal legal document that underpins the plan by giving participants rights thereunder, e.g., by including a claims procedure for the plan, is part of the plan for purposes of ERISA).

Count I of SBERA's Complaint seeks to enforce a resolution of SBERA's trustees that must, pursuant to the trustee's authority, look to the provisions of SBERA's By-

Laws and its ERISA governed plans as the basis for their action. Accordingly, SBERA's claims fall under Section 503(a)(3) of ERISA. Section 503(a)(3) provides that a civil action may be brought by a fiduciary, (A) "to enjoin any act or practice which violates any provision of this title or the terms of the plan," or (B) to obtain other appropriate equitable relief (i) to redress such violations or (II) to enforce any provisions of this title or the terms of the plan." Section 502(f) of the ERISA Act unambiguously gives the district courts of the United States jurisdiction over causes of action arising under § 502(a). See Metropolitan Life Ins. Co. v. Taylor, 481 U.S. 58, 66 (1987) (stating that Congress has manifested an intent to make causes of action within the scope of §502(a) removable to federal court); Mange v. Petrolite Corp., 1995 WL 926-18 (E.D. Mo. 1995) (where plaintiff's claim for non-ERISA covered vacation benefits was tied on the face of the complaint to the interpretation and application of other ERISA covered plans, removal was proper).

**B. ERISA Completely Preempts Any Alternative Claims To Enforce The ERISA Governed Plans.**

This case is also removable because ERISA § 502(a)(3) preempts alternative state law claims that simply seek to enforce the provisions of an ERISA plan. See Romney v. Lin, 105 F. 3d 806, 812 (2d. Cir. 1997) (finding that claims based on an obligation imposed by ERISA "plainly constitutes complete 'conflict preemption' conferring federal jurisdiction under ERISA."). Here, SBERA seeks moneys allegedly due under terms of the SBERA plans (including the SBERA By-Laws). Under these circumstances, ERISA provides SBERA with its only cause of action, and thus, any alternative claims are completely preempted by it.

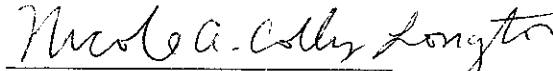
Accordingly, because plaintiff's complaint alleges claims cognizable under ERISA and is preempted by ERISA, the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts has original jurisdiction over these claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331 and 29 U.S.C. §1132(e)(1).

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1446(a), copies of all process, pleadings and orders served upon the defendant are attached hereto. By removing this action to federal court, defendants do not waive any defenses available to them.

Respectfully submitted,

BERKSHIRE BANK

By its attorneys,



James J. Marcellino (BBO #318840)

Nicole Colby Longton (BBO #657478)

McDermott Will & Emery

28 State Street

Boston, Massachusetts 02109

617-535-5000

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

**FILED**

Clerk's Office  
USDC, Mass.

Date 12/22/99

By met  
Deputy Clerk

SAVINGS BANKS EMPLOYEES  
RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION,  
Plaintiff,

v.

UNITED STATES TRUST CORP.,  
LEXINGTON SAVINGS BANK, and  
SOMERSET SAVINGS BANK,  
Defendants.

Civil Action No. 99-12282-WGY

*Jan. 28, 2000,  
motion denied.*

*William L. Young  
Chief Judge*

PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO REMAND

The plaintiff Savings Banks Employees Retirement Association ("SBERA") moves to remand the above-captioned action to the Superior Court of the Trial Court of Massachusetts, Suffolk County, where the action was commenced on October 14, 1999. The grounds in support of this motion are set forth in the Memorandum submitted herewith.

SAVINGS BANKS EMPLOYEES  
RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION,  
By its Attorney,

*Thomas J. Butters*

Thomas J. Butters  
B.B.O. No. 068260  
Butters, Brazilian & Small  
One Exeter Plaza  
Boston, MA 02116  
(617) 367-2600

Dated: December 22, 1999

DOCKETED / /





*By-Laws  
Of The  
Savings Banks  
Employees  
Retirement  
Association*



**BY-LAWS  
OF THE SAVINGS BANKS  
EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION**

The Savings Banks Employees Retirement Association (SBERA) is an unincorporated association of savings banks and other employers created under authority granted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 168, Section 39 for the purpose of enabling the Participating Employers to provide pensions and other benefits for their employees and their beneficiaries.

Any savings bank operating within Massachusetts, or any other organization accepted by SBERA's Trustees may, upon application and with the approval of its Board of Trustees, or Board of Directors, become a Participating Employer. Each Participating Employer shall support its Plan in accordance with an executed Plan Adoption Agreement and these by-laws and shall contribute to the Trust Fund of SBERA the amounts necessary to provide pension and other benefits called for in said Adoption Agreement and Plan. A Participating Employer shall comply with the by-laws of SBERA.

SBERA shall conduct its affairs so as to comply at all times with the Employees Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as it may be amended, and with the Massachusetts General Laws as set forth in Chapter 168, Sections 39, 40 and 41.

The affairs of SBERA shall be conducted in accordance with these by-laws and the organizational procedures set forth herein. Any conflict between the by-laws and the Adoption Agreement and the Plan shall be resolved by reference to the Adoption Agreement and the Plan.

**ARTICLE I**

**1.1 Officers and Trustees**

The Association shall be managed by its officers and a Board of twenty (20) Trustees.

**1.2 Trustees**

The Association shall hold an annual meeting during the month of March each year for the election of Trustees. The annual meeting shall be held at the principal office of the Association or such other place as the Board of Trustees may fix. Seven (7) days written notice of the time and place of the meeting shall be given to each Participating Employer.

The Chief Executive Officers (in person or by written proxy) of the Participating Employers shall at the annual meeting elect five (5) Trustees who shall each serve for a four (4) year term. Each Trustee shall hold office until his successor is elected or until earlier resignation or disqualification. Only officers of the Participating Employers shall be eligible for election and service as Trustees; provided, however, that at any given time only one (1) officer of any one (1) participating employer may serve as Trustee. No Trustee shall be eligible for election after having served for six (6) consecutive years or more until an interval of at least one (1) year has intervened; except, however, that such limitation shall not render ineligible for election and service as a Trustee, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees and the Treasurer or any of them.

Any Trustee may resign at any time upon written notice to the Association. Whenever a vacancy occurs in the Board of Trustees, such vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the Board of Trustees and such successor shall hold office until the next annual meeting or until his successor shall have been duly elected or qualified. Such appointment shall be made by resolution.

At the annual meeting, the presence in person or by written proxy of a majority of Chief Executive Officers of the Participating Employers shall constitute a quorum.

At the first annual meeting following adoption of these by-laws, twenty (20) Trustees shall be elected; five (5) for four (4) year terms; five (5) for three (3) year terms; five (5) for two (2) year terms and five (5) for one (1) year terms.

### 1.3 Officers

The Trustees shall at their annual meeting elect from their own number a Chairman of the Board of Trustees, a Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees and a Treasurer. They shall also elect a President who shall serve as Chief Executive Officer, a Plan Administrator, a Secretary and such other officers as the Trustees may from time to time determine to be advisable for the management of the Association. The office of President and Plan Administrator may be held by the same person. With or without cause, two-thirds (2/3) of Trustees then in office may, at any time, remove any officer. Whenever a vacancy occurs in any officer position through removal or resignation or death, such vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Trustees. Each successor shall hold office for the unexpired term of such officer and until his successor shall be duly elected and qualified. Such appointment shall be made by resolution.

**1.4 Chairman; Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees**

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees shall, if present, preside at all meetings of the Board of Trustees, and the Executive Committee. The Chairman shall be a member of all committees, ex-officio.

In the absence or disability of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Chairman.

**1.5 President; Vice Presidents**

The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association. Subject to the direction of the Board of Trustees and between meetings of the Board, the direction of the Executive Committee, the President shall administer the business of the Association and shall perform such other duties consistent with these by-laws as may be assigned to him from time to time by the Trustees or the Executive Committee.

Any Vice President shall exercise such powers and perform such duties consistent with these by-laws as the Board of Trustees, Executive Committee or the President may from time to time assign to him.

**1.6 Plan Administrator**

The Plan Administrator, under the direction of the Trustees, shall administer the Plan in accordance with the requirements of these by-laws and the Employees Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

**1.7 Treasurer; Assistant Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall be the chief financial officer of the Association. He shall supervise the preparation of such reports and financial statements as may be required by law or requested by the Trustees. He shall also perform such other duties consistent with these by-laws as may be assigned to him from time to time by the Trustees. The Treasurer shall be a member of the Investment Committee, ex-officio.

In the absence or disability of the Treasurer, any Assistant Treasurer so authorized by the Trustees shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Treasurer.

### **1.8 Secretary; Assistant Secretaries**

The Secretary shall be the recording officer and shall have charge of the corporate seal and of all records and correspondence of SBERA, the Board of Trustees, and of such committees as may be appointed. He shall give notice of all meetings of the Association and all meetings of the Board of Trustees and, unless the Trustees shall otherwise provide, shall attend and keep records of such meetings. He shall also perform such other duties consistent with these by-laws as may be assigned to him from time to time by the Trustees, the Executive Committee, or the President.

In the absence or disability of the Secretary, any Assistant Secretary so authorized by the Board of Trustees shall exercise the powers and perform the duties of the Secretary; and in the absence of the Secretary and such Assistant Secretary at any meeting, the presiding officer may appoint a Secretary Pro-Tem.

### **1.9 Other Powers and Duties of Officers**

Each officer shall have, in addition to the duties and powers expressly set forth in these by-laws, such other duties and powers, consistent with the said by-laws, as are customarily incident to his office or may be assigned to him from time to time by the Board of Trustees.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **ADMINISTRATION OF THE ASSOCIATION**

#### **2.1 Meetings and Manner of Acting**

The annual meeting of the Trustees shall be held during the month of March each year immediately following the adjournment of the annual meeting of the Participating Employers. Other Trustee meetings shall be held upon seven (7) days written notice to the Trustees, which may be waived (attendance at a meeting shall be such a waiver), at such times and places as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees shall direct, or upon written request to the Secretary by any five (5) Trustees. A majority of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum at a meeting, and unless otherwise provided a majority of those present at a meeting may act. The Trustees may act without a meeting by a writing signed by a majority of the Trustees in office, but a copy of such action shall be promptly provided to all of the Trustees.

## **2.2 Committees**

There shall be an Executive Committee, an Investment Committee and a Nominating Committee. The Trustees or the Chairman of the Board of Trustees may establish such other committees they shall determine are necessary or desirable for the management of the affairs of the Association and the Trustees may delegate to such committees all or part of their powers as they from time to time determine. The Trustees and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees shall name the members of Committees established by them, each to consist of one or more Trustees, and may change them from time to time or may at any time terminate any committee.

### **(a) Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Treasurer and two Trustees designated by the Board of Trustees. The Executive Committee and each member thereof shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees who may fill vacancies, appoint alternates and remove, at any time without notice, any member of the Committee.

The Executive Committee shall have and may exercise, when the Board of Trustees is not in session, all powers of the Board relating to management of the Association, except the power to fill vacancies among the officers in the Executive Committee and in the Investment Committee. Unless otherwise ordered by the Board, the Executive Committee may take final action in respect of matters involving the current and ordinary business of the Association.

### **(b) Investment Committee**

The Investment Committee shall be elected by the Board of Trustees at the annual meeting and each member thereof shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Trustees who may fill vacancies, appoint alternates and remove at any time without notice, any member of the Committee.

The Investment Committee shall have and may exercise, when the Board of Trustees is not in session, all powers of the Board relating to investment of funds of the Association. Unless otherwise ordered by the Board, the Investment Committee may take final action in respect to investment of funds of the Association.

**(c) Nominating Committee**

Prior to the end of January in each year, the Trustees shall by resolution appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of three (3) Trustees and two (2) Chief Executive Officers of Participating Employers who may or may not also be Trustees and shall direct the Secretary to notify all Participating Employers of the names and addresses of each such appointee within ten (10) days following such appointment. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of officer and Trustee nominations to be presented at the next annual meetings of the Participating Employers and of the Trustees and shall deliver a copy thereof to the Secretary and to the Participating Employers at least fourteen (14) days prior to the date of the annual meeting. Any five (5) Participating Employers may, in a writing received at least seven (7) days prior to the annual meeting of Participating Employers, nominate additional Trustee nominees.

**2.3 Authority and Liability of Trustees**

Except as otherwise required by law or specifically required otherwise by these by-laws, the Trustees through the Plan Administrator shall have the sole power and responsibility to administer the Plan, have all powers and be subject to all the duties expressed or implied in these by-laws, and shall make such rules and regulations for such administration as they deem necessary. Without restricting the generality of the foregoing, they are expressly authorized to establish and carry out a funding policy and method consistent with the objectives of the Plan and the requirements of Title I of ERISA; and on behalf of the Association to litigate or compromise, on such terms as they reasonably determine, any claim which may arise by or against the Association on the one hand, and by or against any governmental agency, present or former Participating Employer, present or former Member or beneficiary of a Member, or other person, on the other hand.

The Trustees shall use ordinary care and reasonable diligence in the performance of their duties, but no Trustee, officer or employee of the Association shall be personally liable for any error of judgment made in good faith, nor for any loss unless resulting from his own willful default or neglect, except to the extent required by ERISA. Any such Trustee, officer or employee shall be indemnified for any loss suffered by him as a result of such exception to the extent not indemnified by insurance. The expense of such indemnification shall be allocated as an expense of administration under 2.6.



## **2.4 Allocation of Responsibilities in General**

The Trustees may make such allocation and re-allocation of their power and responsibilities to and among committees of their own number, and officers, agents and employees as they from time to time determine. Such allocation or re-allocation may be made in any manner provided it is in writing and is sufficiently disclosed to Participating Employers, employees, former participants and authorized government agencies to enable them fully to ascertain and protect their rights under the Plan or perform their duties with respect to it, as the case may be. Actuarial determinations shall be made in accordance with generally accepted actuarial principles as determined by the Enrolled Actuary. So far as feasible, all provisions of these by-laws and all action taken thereunder shall be construed to effect the assignment of duties and responsibilities to specific persons and committees and not jointly.

## **2.5 Allocation of Responsibilities**

Any officer of the Association may in the name and on behalf of the Association, exercise such powers and take such action as from time to time may be authorized by these by-laws or by general or specific vote of the Board of Trustees or duly authorized committee thereof and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, said officers or any of them are, subject to such vote, authorized and empowered to take any or all of the following actions:

- (a) to execute, acknowledge, seal if necessary and deliver, in the name and on behalf of the Association, deeds and conveyances of real estate, assignments, extensions, releases including partial releases, and discharges of mortgages, and assignments and transfers of bonds and other securities; and in connection with any of the foregoing to release or assign the interests of the Association in any policy or contract of insurance or any contract or certificate of guarantee, held by it;
- (b) in the event of a breach of condition of any mortgage held by the Association, to make or cause to be made in the name and on behalf of the Association, entry for the purpose of taking possession of the mortgaged property or of foreclosing such mortgage, and to perform or cause to be performed any and all acts necessary or proper to consummate such foreclosure and effect the due execution of any power of sale contained in such mortgage, including the execution, acknowledgment and delivery of all deeds or other instruments of conveyance or assignment to the purchaser at such foreclosure sale or to any guarantor or insurer of such mortgage, and the execution of all affidavits and certificates required by law or deemed necessary or advisable by any of such officers in connection with any such entry or foreclosure;

- (c) in furtherance of the power and authority conferred by law and these by-laws, to enforce in the name and behalf of the Association, any and all claims, liens and contracts held by the Association or to which it is a party, by proceedings at law or in equity or otherwise, in appropriate courts of this Commonwealth or of any state or territory of the United States in which real or personal property subject to such claims, liens or contracts, may be situated; and
- (d) to act as agent for the Association for receiving service of process.

## **2.6 Expenses**

At their annual meeting, the Trustees shall estimate the expenses necessary for the administration of the Association and authorize assessments therefor to be levied upon Participating Employers in proportion to the number of Members or upon such other basis as the Trustees shall determine. Additional assessments may be authorized by the Trustees at any regular or special meeting. Investment Management Expenses shall be charged against investment income.

## **2.7 Records**

The Association shall keep accurate and detailed accounts and records of all investments, receipts and disbursements and other transactions. All accounts, books and records relating thereto, shall be open to inspection at any and all reasonable times by any Trustee, or by any representative designated by a Participating Employer, or by the Commissioner of Banks. The assets of the Plan shall be valued at fair market value at the end of each Fiscal Year and, in the discretion of the Trustees, more frequently. The accounts and funds of the Association shall be audited at such times and in such manner as the Trustees shall determine.

## **2.8 Bonding**

Trustees, officers, employees and other persons shall be bonded to the extent required by ERISA and to such further extent if any as the Trustees shall determine.

## **2.9 Annual Statements and Reports**

As of the end of each Plan Year, the Association shall (a) furnish to each Member a statement showing the status of his account, and (b) provide each Participating Employer with an audited financial statement for the Plan Year then ended.



## **2.10 Claims Procedure**

The following claims procedure is established to provide protection to Members and beneficiaries, and is to govern unless and until a different procedure is established by the Trustees and published to the Members.

### **a) Manner of Making Claim**

A claim for benefits by a Member or beneficiary to be effective must be made in writing to the Association, unless the Association formally or by course of conduct waives such requirement.

- b) **If an effective claim is wholly or partly denied**, the Association shall give the claimant written notice of the denial within sixty (60) days after the original claim was filed, setting forth (1) the reason or reasons for denial, (2) specific reference to Plan provisions on which the denial is based, (3) a description of any additional information needed to perfect the claim and an explanation of why such information is necessary, and (4) an explanation of the claims procedure.
- c) **Within sixty (60) days from receipt of the denial notice**, the claimant may apply in writing to the Plan Administrator for review, unless the Trustees have designated an Appeals Committee for the purpose, in which case the application shall be made to that Committee.
- d) **The Plan Administrator, or such Appeals Committee, as appropriate, shall issue a decision** on such review within sixty (60) days after receipt of the application for review.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **INVESTMENT OF FUNDS**

#### **3.1 Investments**

The Trustees may invest the Plan assets as a single Fund but it shall maintain separate investment accounts as a part of the Fund as are necessary to carry out the intent of the Plan. The Trustees may hold and/or invest part or all of the Fund in cash or its equivalent, and in stocks, bonds, securities, debts, evidence of debt, savings accounts, real property, annuity contracts, or common or pooled trust funds permitted by law and which do not constitute a prohibited investment under Section 405 and 408 of the Employees Retirement Security Act of 1974. The provisions of the governing instrument of any collective fund in which all or part of the Plan

assets are invested hereunder shall be incorporated as part of the Plan while the Plan assets are so invested. The Trustees may establish specific investments or classes of investments and in accordance with uniform and non-discriminatory rules established by them may allow a Participating Employer to Earmark part or all of such Employer's funds or a Participant to Earmark part or all of his/her Account into such specific investments or classes of investments.

#### ARTICLE IV

#### MISCELLANEOUS

##### 4.1 Employer Information

Each Participating Employer shall furnish to the Association the name, and all other information necessary to determine the benefits due to each Employee who is a Participant in the Plan of the Participating Employer.

##### 4.2 Insurance Company

Any Insurance Company shall not be considered a party to these by-laws, or to the Plan. It may deal with the Trustees as the owner of accounts and shall be entitled to rely on the written instructions of the Trustees or Plan Administrator in all matters pertaining to the Plan or the payment of benefits.

##### 4.3 Fiduciary Obligations

The Trustees and the officers will discharge their duties as set forth herein solely in the interests of Participants and their Beneficiaries for the exclusive purpose of providing the benefits and defraying the reasonable expenses of the Plan. They will, at all times, exercise the care, skill, prudence and diligence under the then prevailing circumstances that a prudent man acting in a like capacity and familiar with such matters would use in conducting a similar enterprise. The named Fiduciaries will act in accordance with these by-laws and the Plan insofar as they are consistent with the law and the purposes of the Plan.

## ARTICLE V

### BY-LAWS

#### 5.1 Construction of By-Laws and Plan

The provisions of the Plan and the by-laws shall be construed according to the Employees Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the regulations issued by the Internal Revenue Service and the Department of Labor of the United States and the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Any conflict between ERISA and/or the regulations issued thereunder and the Laws of Massachusetts shall be resolved by compliance with ERISA and the regulations issued thereunder.

The provisions of these by-laws shall be construed as a whole in such manner as will carry out the purposes of the Plan and shall not be construed separately without relation to the entire Plan.

#### 5.2 Amendment to By-Law

Except for Article 1.2 relating to the election of Trustees which may be amended only by the Participating Employers at an annual or special meeting called for that purpose, these by-laws may be amended by a vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the Trustees at a special meeting called for that purpose. At least thirty (30) days prior to the date of any meeting called to amend the by-laws a copy of the proposed amended by-laws shall be mailed to each Participating Employer with a request that the same be posted in a conspicuous place or otherwise adequately disseminated for the information of all members. No amendment to these by-laws shall be adopted which shall enable any part of the funds of the Association or income therefrom to be used for or diverted to purposes other than the exclusive benefit of Members and beneficiaries.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

SAVINGS BANK EMPLOYEES  
RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION,

Plaintiff,

v.

BERKSHIRE BANK,

Defendant.

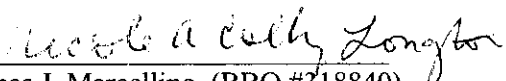
CIVIL ACTION  
NO.

**CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT OF DEFENDANT BERKSHIRE  
BANK**

Pursuant to Rule 7.1 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and to enable judges and magistrate judges of the Court to evaluate possible disqualification or recusal, the undersigned counsel of record for defendant Berkshire Bank in the above-captioned matter certifies that Berkshire Hills Bancorp, Inc. is a public company that owns 100% of Berkshire Bank's stock.

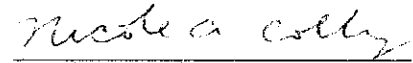
BERKSHIRE BANK

By:

  
James J. Marcellino (BBO #318840)  
Nicole A. Colby (BBO #657478)  
McDermott Will & Emery  
28 State Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02109  
617-535-5000

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the Defendant Berkshire Bank's Corporate Disclosure Statement has been served upon all counsel of record by first-class mail on this 19th day of January, 2005.

  
Nicole A. Colby (BBO #657478)

BST99 1442680-1.069465.0011

JS 44 (Rev. 11/04)

## CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

<b>I. (a) PLAINTIFFS</b> Savings Bank Employees Retirement Association	<b>DEFENDANTS</b> Berkshire Bank
<b>(b)</b> County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff _____ (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant _____ (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.
<b>(c)</b> Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Arthur G. Telegen, Esq., Foley Hoag LLP Seaport World Trade Center West, 155 Seaport Boulevard, Boston, MA 02210	Attorneys (If Known) Nicole A. Colby, Esq. McDermott, Will & Emery LLP 28 State Street, Boston, MA 02109

<b>II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION</b> (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	<b>III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES</b> (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)																								
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff  <input type="checkbox"/> 2 U.S. Government Defendant  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)  <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th></th> <th>PTF</th> <th>DEF</th> <th></th> <th>PTF</th> <th>DEF</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Citizen of This State</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 1</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 1</td> <td>Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 4</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Citizen of Another State</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 2</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 2</td> <td>Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 5</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 3</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 3</td> <td>Foreign Nation</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 6</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> 6</td> </tr> </table>		PTF	DEF		PTF	DEF	Citizen of This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	Citizen of Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6
	PTF	DEF		PTF	DEF																				
Citizen of This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4																				
Citizen of Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5																				
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6																				

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)						
<b>CONTRACT</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<b>TORTS</b> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <b>PERSONAL INJURY</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane  <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability  <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel &amp; Slander  <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability  <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine  <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability  <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle  <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability  <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury           </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <b>PERSONAL INJURY</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice  <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability  <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability  <b>PERSONAL PROPERTY</b>  <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud  <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending  <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage  <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability           </td> </tr> </table>	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability <b>PERSONAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<b>FORFEITURE/PENALTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 610 Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> 620 Other Food & Drug <input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 630 Liquor Laws <input type="checkbox"/> 640 R.R. & Truck <input type="checkbox"/> 650 Airline Regs. <input type="checkbox"/> 660 Occupational Safety/Health <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other	<b>BANKRUPTCY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157  <b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark	<b>OTHER STATUTES</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 810 Selective Service <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 892 Economic Stabilization Act <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 894 Energy Allocation Act <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability <b>PERSONAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability					
<b>REAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 444 Welfare <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights	<b>PRISONER PETITIONS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <b>Habeas Corpus:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition	<b>LABOR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	<b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))  <b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609		

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)							
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Original Proceeding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 Removed from State Court	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Remanded from Appellate Court	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 Reinstated or Reopened	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Transferred from another district (specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 Multidistrict Litigation	<input type="checkbox"/> 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment	

<b>VI. CAUSE OF ACTION</b>	Brief description of cause: <u>Defendant removing case pursuant to 28 USC, Section 1441 because plaintiff's case is removable under 28 USC 1331 and 29 USC 1332(e) (1) because plaintiff's claims are subject to and preempted by ERISA.</u> <input type="checkbox"/> CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23 DEMAND \$ <u>55,997.44</u> JURY DEMAND: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
----------------------------	---

<b>VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:</b>	<b>VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY</b> (See instructions): JUDGE <u>Edward F. Harrington</u> DOCKET NUMBER <u>04-11545</u>
-------------------------------------	---

DATE <u>January 20, 2005</u>	SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD <u>Nicole A. Colby Longton</u>
---------------------------------	---

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	RECEIPT # _____	AMOUNT _____	APPLYING IFP _____	JUDGE _____	MAG. JUDGE _____
---------------------	-----------------	--------------	--------------------	-------------	------------------

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

1. Title of case (name of first party on each side only) Savings Bank Employees Retirement Association  
v. Berkshire Bank

2. Category in which the case belongs based upon the numbered nature of suit code listed on the civil cover sheet. (See local rule 40.1(a)(1)).

- ☐ I. 160, 410, 470, R.23, REGARDLESS OF NATURE OF SUIT.
- ☒ II. 195, 368, 400, 440, 441-444, 540, 550, 555, 625, 710, 720, 730, 740, 790, 791, 820\*, 830\*, 840\*, 850, 890, 892-894, 895, 950. \*Also complete AO 120 or AO 121 for patent, trademark or copyright cases
- ☐ III. 110, 120, 130, 140, 151, 190, 210, 230, 240, 245, 290, 310, 315, 320, 330, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 362, 365, 370, 371, 380, 385, 450, 891.
- ☐ IV. 220, 422, 423, 430, 460, 510, 530, 610, 620, 630, 640, 650, 660, 690, 810, 861-865, 870, 871, 875, 900.
- ☐ V. 150, 152, 153.

3. Title and number, if any, of related cases. (See local rule 40.1(g)). If more than one prior related case has been filed in this district please indicate the title and number of the first filed case in this court.

Savings Bank Employees Retirement Association v. East Boston Savings Bank  
(No. 04-11545)

4. Has a prior action between the same parties and based on the same claim ever been filed in this court?

YES ☐ NO ☒

5. Does the complaint in this case question the constitutionality of an act of congress affecting the public interest? (See 28 USC §2403)

YES ☐ NO ☒

If so, is the U.S.A. or an officer, agent or employee of the U.S. a party?

YES ☐ NO ☒

6. Is this case required to be heard and determined by a district court of three judges pursuant to title 28 USC §2284?

YES ☒ NO ☐

7. Do all of the parties in this action, excluding governmental agencies of the united states and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ("governmental agencies"), residing in Massachusetts reside in the same division? - (See Local Rule 40.1(d)).

YES ☐ NO ☒

A. If yes, in which division do all of the non-governmental parties reside?

Eastern Division ☐ Central Division ☐ Western Division ☐

B. If no, in which division do the majority of the plaintiffs or the only parties, excluding governmental agencies, residing in Massachusetts reside?

Eastern Division ☒ Central Division ☐ Western Division ☒

8. If filing a Notice of Removal - are there any motions pending in the state court requiring the attention of this Court? (If yes, submit a separate sheet identifying the motions)

YES ☐ NO ☒

(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)

ATTORNEY'S NAME Nicole A. Colby Longdon

ADDRESS McDermott, Will & Emery LLP, 28 State Street, Boston, MA 02109

TELEPHONE NO. 617-535-4000

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MIDDLESEX, ss.

SUPERIOR COURT DEPARTMENT  
OF THE TRIAL COURT

SAVINGS BANK EMPLOYEES  
RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION,

Plaintiff,

v.

BERKSHIRE BANK,

Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION  
NO. 05-0020

Corrected NOTICE OF REMOVAL

The defendant hereby gives notice that it has filed in the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, a Petition for Removal, a certified copy of which is attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted,  
McDermott Will & Emery

BY: Nicole A. Colby Longton  
James J. Marcellino (BBO #318840)  
Nicole A. Colby Longton (BBO #657478)  
28 State Street  
Boston, MA 02109  
617-535-4000

BST99 1442354-1.069465.0011

**CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a true copy of the above document was served upon the attorney of record for each other party (by mail) (by hand) on 1/21/05  
Nicole A. Colby Longton



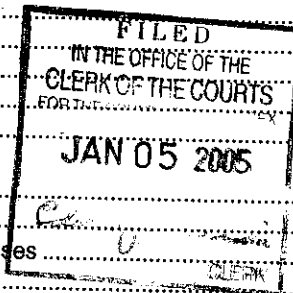
<b>CIVIL ACTION COVER SHEET</b>		DOCKET NO. (S) <b>05-0020 I</b>	Trial Court of Massachusetts Superior Court Department County: <u>Middlesex</u>
PLAINTIFF(S) Savings Banks Employees Retirement Association		DEFENDANT(S) Berkshire Bank	
ATTORNEY, FIRM NAME, ADDRESS and TELEPHONE Arthur G. Telegen, BBO #494140, Alica Alonso Matos, BBO #651154 FOLEY HOAG LLP, 155 Seaport Blvd., Boston, MA 02210 (617) 832-1000		ATTORNEY (if known)	
<b>Origin code and track designation</b>			
Place an X in one box only:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1. F01 Original Complaint	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. F04 District Court Appeal c.231, s.97 & 104 (After trial) (X)
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. F02 Removal to Sup.Ct., C.231, s.104 (Before trial) (F)	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. F05 Reactivated after rescript; relief from Judgment/Order (Mass.R.Civ.P. 60) (X)
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. F03 Retransfer to Sup.Ct. C.231, s. 102c (X)	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. E10 Summary Process Appeal (X)
<b>TYPE OF ACTION AND TRACK DESIGNATION (See reverse side)</b>			
Code No.	TYPE OF ACTION (specify)	TRACK	IS THIS A JURY CASE?
D99	Equitable Remedies - Other	E	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
The following is a full, itemized and detailed statement of the facts on which plaintiff relies to determine money damages. For this form, disregard double or treble damages claims; indicate single damages only.			

**TORT CLAIMS**

(Attach additional sheets as necessary)

## A. Documented medical expenses to date:

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| 1. Total hospital expenses .....         | \$ |
| 2. Total Doctor expenses .....           | \$ |
| 3. Total chiropractic expenses .....     | \$ |
| 4. Total physical therapy expenses ..... | \$ |
| 5. Total other expenses (describe) ..... | \$ |



- |  |    |
|--|----|
| B. Documented lost wages and compensation to date .....  | \$ |
| C. Documented property damages to date .....   | \$ |
| D. Reasonably anticipated future medical and hospital expenses .....                               | \$ |
| E. Reasonably anticipated lost wages .....   | \$ |
| F. Other documented items of damage (describe) .....   | \$ |
| G. Brief description of plaintiff's injury, including nature and extent of injury (describe) ..... | \$ |

SUBTOTAL \$

TOTAL \$

**CONTRACT CLAIMS**

(Attach additional sheets as necessary)

Provide a detailed description of claim(s):

The Defendant Bank has failed to pay the withdrawal assessment that is due and owing to Plaintiff pursuant to a resolution of the Plaintiff's Board of Trustees and has committed unfair business practices in violation of c. 93A

**TOTAL** \$55,997.44  
plus triple damages

 PLEASE IDENTIFY, BY CASE NUMBER, NAME AND COUNTY, ANY RELATED ACTION PENDING IN THE  
 SUPERIOR COURT DEPARTMENT

"I hereby certify that I have complied with the requirements of Rule 5 of the Supreme Judicial Court Uniform Rules on Dispute Resolution (SJC Rule 1:18) requiring that I provide my clients with information about court-connected dispute resolution services and discuss with them the advantages and disadvantages of the various methods."

Signature of Attorney of Record

DATE:

1/5/05

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MIDDLESEX, ss.

SUPERIOR COURT DEPARTMENT  
OF THE TRIAL COURT

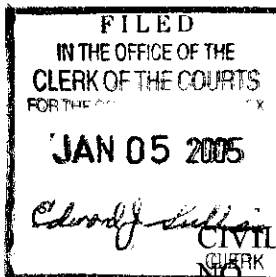
SAVINGS BANKS EMPLOYEES  
RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION,

Plaintiff,

v.

BERKSHIRE BANK,

Defendant.



05-0020

CIVIL ACTION

3466A000001/05/05CIVIL	240.00
3466A000001/05/05SUR CHARGE	15.00
3466A000001/05/05SECC	20.00

**COMPLAINT**

For its complaint, plaintiff Savings Banks Employees Retirement Association ("SBERA") alleges:

1. Plaintiff Savings Banks Employees Retirement Association is an entity created by the Massachusetts General Court for the purpose of administering, on behalf of Massachusetts savings banks, employee retirement plans which are qualified under Section 401 of the Federal Internal Revenue Code.

2. Defendant Berkshire Bank is a Massachusetts savings bank which had been a long-time participant of SBERA. It was a sponsor of a retirement plan which SBERA administered.

3. On or about September 24, 1998, SBERA's Board of Trustees passed a resolution providing for an assessment to be imposed on participating banks upon withdrawal. These assessments were intended to be a reasonable estimate of the average costs that a withdrawal

imposed upon SBERA. The Board of Trustees passed the resolution to reduce administrative costs and risks of non-payment by withdrawing banks.

4. The Defendant was aware of the resolution. Other banks have withdrawn from SBERA since the resolution was adopted, and have paid the required assessment. The Defendant has therefore enjoyed the benefits of the resolution.

5. The Defendant withdrew from SBERA on September 30, 2004.

6. SBERA has repeatedly demanded that the Defendant pay the withdrawal fee as of \$55,997.44.

7. The Defendant has failed and refused to pay the fees.

#### COUNT I

8. The allegations of paragraphs 1 through 7 are set out herein.

9. The Defendant owes SBERA the amount set forth in paragraph 6 hereof.

COUNT II

10. The allegations of paragraphs 1 through 7 hereof are incorporated herein.

11. On information and belief, the Defendant intended to withdraw, did not intend to pay the assessment due upon withdrawal, and nonetheless accepted the benefits of the assessment resolution for many years.

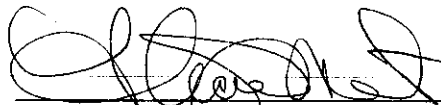
12. The Defendant has committed unfair business practices in violation of Chapter 93A of the Massachusetts General Laws.

WHEREFORE, plaintiff Savings Banks Employees Retirement Association demands judgment as follows:

1. Damages in the amounts set forth in paragraph 6 hereof.
2. Damages pursuant to Chapter 93A in an amount three times the amounts set forth in paragraph 6 hereof.
3. Its attorney's fees.
4. Interest and costs.
5. Such other relief as This Honorable Court deems appropriate.

SAVINGS BANKS EMPLOYEES  
RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION,

By its attorneys,



Arthur G. Telegen, BBO #494140  
Alicia Alonso Matos, BBO #651154  
FOLEY HOAG LLP  
Seaport World Trade Center West  
155 Seaport Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02210  
(617) 832-1000

Dated: January 5, 2005

**MICV2005-00020**

**Savings Bank Employees Retirement Association v Berkshire Bank**

<b>File Date</b>	01/05/2005	<b>Status</b>	Disposed: transfered to other court (dtrans)	
<b>Status Date</b>	01/25/2005	<b>Session</b>	J - Cv J (9B Cambridge)	
<b>Origin</b>	1	<b>Case Type</b>	D99 - Misc equitable remedy	
<b>Lead Case</b>		<b>Track</b>	F	

<b>Service</b>	04/05/2005	<b>Answer</b>	06/04/2005	<b>Rule12/19/20</b>	06/04/2005
<b>Rule 15</b>	06/04/2005	<b>Discovery</b>	11/01/2005	<b>Rule 56</b>	12/01/2005
<b>Final PTC</b>	12/31/2005	<b>Disposition</b>	03/01/2006	<b>Jury Trial</b>	No

<b>Plaintiff</b> Savings Bank Employees Retirement Association Active 01/05/2005	<b>Private Counsel 494140</b> Arthur G Telegen Foley Hoag LLP Seaport World Trade Center West 155 Seaport Boulevard Boston, MA 02210-2600 Phone: 617-832-1000 Fax: 617-832-7000 Active 01/05/2005 Notify
<b>Defendant</b> Berkshire Bank Service pending 01/05/2005	<b>Private Counsel 657478</b> Nicole Colby Langston McDermott Will & Emery LLP 28 State Street Boston, MA 02109 Phone: 617-535-4000 Fax: 617-535-3800 Active 01/25/2005 Notify

Date	Paper	Text
01/05/2005	1.0	Complaint & civil action cover sheet filed
01/05/2005		Origin 1, Type D99, Track F.
01/05/2005	2.0	Plaintiff's Motion For Appointment Of Beacon Hill Research As Special Process Server Motion Allowed. (Graziano, J.)
01/25/2005	3.0	Case REMOVED this date to US District Court of Massachusetts by Defendant Berkshire Bank.
01/25/2005		ABOVE ACTION THIS DAY REMOVED TO US DISTRICT COURT.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MIDDLESEX, ss.

SUPERIOR COURT DEPARTMENT  
OF THE TRIAL COURT

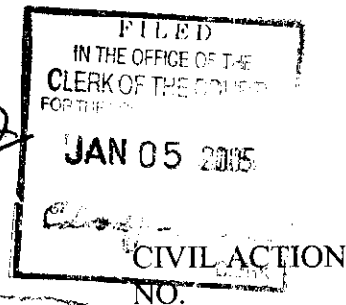
SAVINGS BANKS EMPLOYEES  
RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION,

Plaintiff,

v.

BERKSHIRE BANK,

Defendant.



05-0020

**MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL PROCESS SERVER**

In accordance with the provisions of Rule 4(c) of the Massachusetts Rules of Civil Procedure, the undersigned hereby moves this Court for the appointment of Beacon Hill Research, Inc. as special process servers in the above-titled case. The undersigned swears that to the best of his knowledge and belief, the person to be appointed process server is 18 years of age or over and is not a party to this action.

*1/5/05*  
*GRAZIANO*  
*Ellen M. DeLoce*  
*Deputy*

Respectfully submitted,

SAVINGS BANKS EMPLOYEES  
RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION,

By its attorneys,

A handwritten signature of Arthur G. Telegen.

Arthur G. Telegen, BBO #494140  
Alicia Alonso Matos, BBO #651154  
FOLEY HOAG LLP  
155 Seaport Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02210  
(617) 832-1000

Dated: January 5, 2005

